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# The Good 5 Cent Cigar (4/5/2012)

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# The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

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Issue 80

'Just what this country needs'  
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Thursday  
April 5, 2012

## URI journalism professor, Providence Journal reporter passes away at 60 after battle with long-term illness

BY NANCY LAVIN  
News Editor

University of Rhode Island journalism professor and award-winning environmental journalist for The Providence Journal Peter Lord passed away Wednesday after a long struggle with cancer. He was 60 years old.

At URI, Lord served as the journalism director for the Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Journalism, as well as an adjunct professor in the journalism department, teaching classes including Media Writing, Public Affairs Reporting Magazine Article and Feature Writing.

"Mr. Lord taught journalism classes at URI for about 12 years and he was deeply loved by his students" said Linda Levin, journalism professor and former chair of the journalism department. "He



Courtesy of the University of Rhode Island website

**Peter Lord, 60, passed away yesterday. He was a beloved professor in the journalism department and environmental reporter for The Providence Journal.**

brought years of experience as a reporter into the classroom and helped the students

learn in a way that was both fun and useful."

Lord created a national

presence for himself as an environmental reporter for The Providence Journal, covering stories on oil spills, climate change and even journeying to The Arctic Circle, according to a Providence Journal report. Just last week, Lord was honored by the Rhode Island Natural History Survey as one its 2012 Distinguished Naturalists for his lifelong commitment to environmental causes.

Lord also spent one year teaching full-time from during the 1988-89 academic year on a URI Freedom Forum grant. During this year, he taught many of the same classes he taught as an adjunct, as well as environmental reporting.

"After he finished the year on our staff, we brought him back and all the time I was chair, I tried to get him

Continued on page 3

## Senate elects 14 members to positions

BY SHAWN SAIYA  
Managing Editor

The University of Rhode Island Student Senate appointed and elected 14 members into executive, chair and committee positions at its meeting last night. Along with the newly elected, one appointment was denied and the position was reopened to a candidate search.

Two of Stephanie Segal's presidential appointments were voted and sworn in by the members of the senate. Jacqueline Atkins is the new Director of Communications and senator Matthew Kilduff is now the Chief Information Officer for the senate.

A third appointment by Segal was rejected. Senator

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## Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies spreads message, unique training program in Rhode Island, internationally

BY FARAH CASALINI  
News Editor

Peace and nonviolence might not be ideas one would immediately associate with the University of Rhode Island. But to other countries, and to other schools, they are the biggest accomplishments the university has achieved, ever.

The Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at URI spreads its theories of peaceful conflict resolution across the state, the nation and the world, reaching as far as Nigeria, and as close as the Central Falls School District. Director Paul Bueno de Mesquita said the Center has ties in Yemen, Egypt and Kashmir, just to name three out of the total three dozen countries.

The Center was founded in 1998 by Bernard Lafayette, a Civil Rights Movement activist who worked closely

with Martin Luther King Jr., who created the Center with the ultimate goal of providing education and training in nonviolence and peace studies, Bueno de Mesquita said.

"His mission was to spread nonviolence internationally," Bueno de Mesquita said.

The current mission of the Center, Bueno de Mesquita said, is to provide education and training, promote research and scholarly work and create outreach programs internationally and here in the nation.

In order to reach these goals, the center has created unique training programs that teach others how to solve conflicts using Kingian nonviolence techniques, which are rooted in the methodology based on the work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The center's signature program is its international

Nonviolence Summer Institute, where participants spend two to three weeks in intensive training, learning Kingian nonviolence conflict reconciliation and at the end, become qualified to provide nonviolence training to others.

"[URI] is the only university that offers this kind of significant training," Bueno de Mesquita said.

People come from places all over the world to be a part of this training, Bueno de Mesquita said, including Thupten Pendhar, who trained at this program and eventually coordinated the 2008 protest of the Beijing Olympics in New York City. Now, Pendhar is a Buddhist geshe scholar, the highest doctoral degree in Buddhist studies, in residence at URI.

"The fact that [URI has] one is really very unique," Bueno de Mesquita said,

adding that there are not many people who have reached the level of geshe.

Despite the center's accomplishments, Bueno de Mesquita said he wishes student involvement would be higher. He said he has found that some students don't even know that the center exists, let alone what it is striving to do.

In order to try and increase involvement, the center has established a minor program in nonviolence and peace studies and is hoping to initiate a graduate program in the future.

"Not enough students know about [the center]," Bueno de Mesquita said.

Even though it's not as well-known as hoped for, Bueno de Mesquita said the center is extremely significant to the campus and campus life. He said our culture is "illiterate" about how to go

about solving problems peacefully and nonviolently, as seen in the Trayvon Martin case and in all examples of oppression, discrimination and bullying in our society.

"All you have to do is turn on the TV set to see why it's important to learn peace studies," he said.

He went on to say that "violence is penetrating every aspect" of our lives, and its irreparable damage has begun to affect our health and our environment.

"Everyday, in our culture, we are taught violence," he said. "But we don't know much about nonviolence and peace."

While Bueno de Mesquita hopes for some improvements, he believes the Center is "closer to fulfilling the vision now more than ever before," and it is what "sets

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The Good 5-Cent Cigar

Today's forecast

57 °F

Sunny!



### Nickel Brief:

Learn more about the LGBTQ symposiums this week in tomorrow's issue.

Are the 'Hunger Games' fans racist?

See page 2.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Casting of African-American actors in 'Hunger Games' sparks debate and reveals racism of fans on Twitter

BY AUGIE KING  
Entertainment Editor

By now, the fervor behind the theatrical release of the "Hunger Games" film adaptation has mostly died down, although the film is still running strong at number one at the box-office. During the time of its release, however, a small uprising of fans on Twitter began voicing their opinions on the film and the casting of African-American actors in certain roles, namely Lenny Kravitz (Cinna), Amandla Stenberg (Rue) and Dayo Okeniyi (Thresh).

Many of the tweets are unprintable because of their harsh language and racial slurs, but here are some examples of reactions people had to the casting, minus the Twitter account names: "Why does rue have to be black not gonna lie kinda ruined the movie." "Awkward moment when Rue is some black girl and not the little blonde innocent girl you picture." "Call me racist but when I found out rue was black her death wasn't as sad."

All of these tweets feature varying degrees of offensiveness, but that last one I mentioned particularly troubled me. How does changing the skin color of a character affect the emotional impact of their death? The second tweet I mentioned brings up another point of whitewashing in

films. The negativity towards the casting is especially offensive and confusing because Suzanne Collins describes Rue in the original novel as having "dark brown skin," and also for Thresh.

Cinna is not overtly described as dark-skinned, but why should that be a big deal? If Stenberg captures the innocence of Rue and Kravitz the calm mentor essence of Cinna, then their skin color is irrelevant to the discussion. It's not entirely clear whether these fans of "The Hunger Games" simply missed those descriptions of Rue and Thresh, or have such a strong Caucasian image in their head that it blocks those descriptions out.

The latter could in fact be true as Katniss, the main pro-

tagonist of the plot, is described as having "olive-colored skin" (i.e. tanned brown) in the novel. Why weren't these fans up in arms over the casting of the very much Caucasian Jennifer Lawrence? Not to put down Lawrence as she was undoubtedly the best aspect of the film with her amazing performance, but I guess these fickle fans let it slide when a white actor/actress takes over a role meant for someone of darker complexion.

One of the most recent examples of this is "Avatar: The Last Airbender" film, which cast Caucasian actors in the major roles of Asian characters. In this case, fans of the original series were very vocal about the race of the

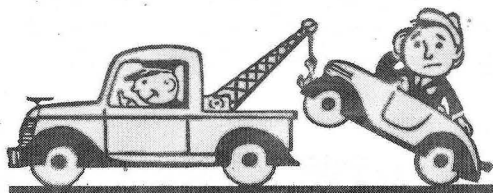
actors too. But this was not because of buried racism or blind ignorance; it was because these fans were vocal about roles that could have gone to Asian-American actors instead of whitewashing the characters. Asian and African-American characters/actors already get sidelined to supporting roles against Caucasian protagonists, so when their opportunities for major roles get lost (as has happened since the dawn of cinema over 100 years ago) there's much more of a sting behind the changes.

These reactions to "The Hunger Games" unfortunately reveal the prejudices and racism that still runs through our society, even if it took an website such as Twitter to do this. Clearly not all "Hunger

Games" fans are racist, as the overall reception of the film has been of rapturous praise, but this small minority has sadly put a negative cloud over the fan base in the last couple of weeks. It also proves that some people just can't read the words right in front of them in the book they supposedly adore and treasure.



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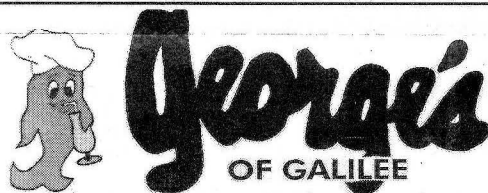
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## Lord

### From page 1

teach every semester," Levin said.

Several journalism students echoed this praise for Lord's teaching style, remembering him as one of the "stand-out" professors in the department.

"He basically taught me everything I know about feature writing and showed me what direction

I want to go into in journalism," said Farah Casalini, a senior journalism major who took Lord's Feature Writing class last spring. "He really pushed me. I remember he gave be the first B I ever received on a writing assignment."

Senior Greg Gentile added that Lord's quirky personality made him memorable as well.

"He opened his class with showing us some of the work he did with the projo, and I remember thinking, 'this man is odd,'" he said. "What the hell am I going to get from this man who writes about burning mattresses and ducks in Alaska?"

Many students agreed that Lord's creative, casual style in the classroom made them feel at ease and eager to improve their writing skills. Gentile also said that Lord made a special effort to mentor his students and "take us under his wing."

"He made us read our writing out loud, which is nerve racking to people who had never done it," he said. "But he would always tell you 'that is publishable' or 'keep working on that,' always giving us a chance to redo work and make it the best it could be."

About five years ago, Lord went back to school to receive a master's degree in Marine Affairs at

URI, according to Levin. He continued teaching one course per semester and working full-time at The Providence Journal until taking medical leave for his illness.

Joshua Aromin, a full-time editorial assistant at Rhode Island Monthly who graduates this May, credited Lord with leading him to a career in magazine writing.

"His magazine and feature writing class led me toward a career working in magazines," he said. "Without his unique style of teaching and approachable demeanor, I'm unsure if I would be where I am today."

Graduate Brenna McCabe, class of 2009, who now works as a publicist for the State Legislative Press Bureau, echoed this sentiment.

"He's one of the reasons many of us continued to pursue careers in journalism when the world was constantly telling us to turn back and run for the hills," she said. "We knew that if we could achieve the happiness he clearly felt in his profession, we, too, could look back on our careers with appreciation and satisfaction."

McCabe added that Lord will remain one of the most important mentors of her college experience, and wished other students could share in his passion for journalism.

"What disheartens me the most about his death is that other students won't get to benefit from his inspirational teaching," she said.

## Tebow

### From page 4

spring in his step and have to be put down.

Tebow, like all star athletes, exists in the same place in the American psyche. Athletes "love" us by unconditionally performing at their highest level for us. We love them by cheering and purchasing their merchandise. Our athletes will always be at the top of their game when they grace our television screens. Yet, someday our favorite athletes will lose a few inches off their jump and their speed will slow down, but rather than being put down they will be sent off into the world of retirement.

You wouldn't think any less of your pet it was too giddy to see you after you got home would you?

However, when an athlete doesn't live up to people's perceived notions of what an athlete should be he/she is vilified. Kobe Bryant committed adultery and was arrested for sexual assault, but today he is a demigod to many basketball fans. So much for getting his nose rubbed in it after peeing on the rug.

We love our pets because they provide us companionship, but we train them to be obedient. We love our athletes because they provide us "companionship", but we will bend over backwards not to discipline them. The athletes that admirably serve their community should be commended; not condemned.

Tim Tebow is a talented athlete who has used his gifts to build a career for himself as a professional football player, and he has done it with class, grace and a humility that is missing from professional sports these days.

Who are we to judge him for that?

## Center

### From page 1

us apart" from all other universities.

"Nonviolence and peace education is something everyone should have an experience in," he said. "It's a skill that will last a lifetime and lead them to a more meaningful, successful life."

## Senate

### From page 1

Patrick Brown was denied the Director of Marketing position by the senate and that position was reopened to a candidate search.

Part of the concern the Senate had with the Director of Marketing position was that there was only one applicant to the position. Although Brown has had previous experience in marketing, and is a marketing minor, the Senate did not feel comfortable electing him at that time.

Two executive positions were filled unopposed. Tanya Jones, current senate Secretary, was reelected to her same position and Senator Molly Smith was elected Treasurer.

Senator Gabriel Lamoureux was elected Academic Affairs chairman without opposition.

Senator Adiva Musali came out on top in a four-candidate race for Campus Affairs chairperson. Musali beat out senators Andrew Pilkington, Rosemarie Thomas and Matthew Berger.

Senator Brittany Ferreira was elected as Cultural Affairs chairperson without opposition.

Senator David Pickard rescinded his nomination for External Affairs chairperson, allowing Brittany Dobrzynski to win the position unopposed.

The final election of the meeting was for the members of the five-person Rules and Ethics Committee. A handful of candidates rescinded their nominations, leaving six senators running for the five spots. Senators Chris Cicero and Kyle Weinreich were reelected onto the committee and joining them are senators Ethan Zawatski, Heather St. Pierre and Brian Sit. The senator who was not elected was Matthew Berger.

### In other news:

- A \$760 contingency grant was approved for the Gay-Straight Alliance for the group's "Day of Silence" event. The money will be used for the "Break the Silence Dance Party" to be held on April 13 from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom. Admission is free for all college students with two forms of photo identification.



Rhody  
SPORTS

## URI men's baseball team wins 7-1 against Northeastern University on Tuesday

BY JONATHAN SHIDELER  
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island baseball team beat Northeastern University by a final score of 7-1 on Tuesday afternoon. The victory was head coach Jim Foster's 200th win as the Rhody baseball coach.

"I give all the credit to the guys," Foster said.

Sophomore Liam O'Sullivan found himself in a bit of trouble in the bottom of the first. After walking in a run, coach Foster went out to have a word with his pitcher.

"[Foster] just told me to slow down a bit and not let the game get away from me," O'Sullivan said.

O'Sullivan responded by striking out the next batter and leaving the bases loaded.

In the first, sophomore Jeff Roy led off with a walk. Junior Chris Famiglietti struck a double down the right field line, which advanced Roy to third. Sophomore Pat Quinn plated Roy with an infield ground-out.

In the top the of first, O'Sullivan got out of the inning with an inning-ending double play, stranding two

more potential Huskie runs.

The Rams had a two-out rally in the bottom of the second. They scored five runs on five hits.

Senior Greg Annarummo found himself on second following a hit-by-pitch and a stolen base, his first of two in each category on the day. Roy struck a double to plate Annarummo and get himself into scoring position. Famiglietti, who went 3-4 with an RBI and a stolen base, dropped a bunt single down the third baseline to advance Roy to third. Senior Jeff Cammans then drove in both his teammates with a double. Before the inning ended, Quinn and junior Pat Fortunato both singled to each drive in a run.

With a six run lead, O'Sullivan settled in and didn't give up another run, but he did come very close. In the seventh, junior Rob Curran came in with two outs and the bases loaded. He got out of the inning unharmed, to leave a clean slate in the run column for his team as well as O'Sullivan.

"Can't explain how big that is for him [Curran] to come in and get us out of sit-

uation like that," O'Sullivan said. "That was huge."

Curran went on to throw for a total of 2.1 innings. During that stretch he gave up no hits, no runs, and struck out one batter.

The Rams drew a total of five walks, were hit by pitches three times, and stole five bases throughout the course of the game. Though the team went hitless for four innings, they still managed to get a run on the board due to an error followed by three consecutive walks.

"The hitting comes and goes at times. It's good we got an early lead because it allows us to play to what we want to do. Get on, steal bases and keep an up-tempo pace," Foster said.

This weekend the Rams will be hosting George Washington University in their second home series of the season. On Friday first pitch will be at 3 p.m., Saturday at 1 p.m., followed by Sunday game at noon to wrap up the weekend.

## Not so average Joe: Other A-Rod deserves credit too

BY JOE HOLLENBECK  
Sports Editor

Many of you reading this might not have any idea who I'm talking about when I say "the other A-Rod," so I will do my best to clarify. I am NOT talking about the New York Yankees third baseman, Alex Rodriguez. I'm referring to the former top-10 world-ranking tennis player, Andy Roddick.

Most of Roddick's success came early on in his career. He made a name for himself with his first major win during the US Open all the way back in 2001. For a short time he was ranked number one in the world and was a National sensation.

Unfortunately, his major success was short-lived, as one of the best tennis players ever began to emerge on the court. Roger Federer began to win major after major and put too much pressure on Roddick, who began to fade from the top of the rankings.

Injury-plagued seasons continued to add up and soon Roddick found himself in a five-year drought without a major tournament victory. Soon his game became more and more reliant upon his strong serve (which earned him a tennis record and made him a fan

favorite) until he began losing a lot of tournaments and almost called it quits in 2008.

The last major opportunity for Roddick to reclaim some glory in his career came back in 2009 during the Wimbledon tournament when he played some of the best all around tennis of his career, but unfortunately lost in the finals to Federer in one of the best matches of all time.

Now Roddick is fighting more nagging knee injuries and the new wave of younger players that seem to be hitting the international tennis scene. Do I think his chances of winning another major title are over? Not yet. He still has a chance to change his game and become a more well-rounded player. If he can do that, then he can play with any of the highly ranked players out there.

As far as his image goes, I think he is still one of the fan favorites in the sport right now. He has traded in his anger issues and mouthing off (which are fun to watch) for more humble play and genuine excitement. Also, now that he has dropped down in the rankings and under the radar, he has virtually become an underdog. And everybody loves to root for the underdog.

## The Bottom Line: Is Tebow good or bad?

BY MIKE ABELSON  
Sports Staff Reporter

Back on March 22, Tim Tebow was traded to the New York Jets.

From the reaction of many Jets fans you'd have thought that the team had just signed an incarnation of Satan. Many disliked the trade because of Tebow's sub-standard play on the field. He completed 46.5 percent of his passes last season, and I can understand the feeling of a team making a questionable acquisition (Julio Lugo...cough cough).

The part I do not understand is the hatred directed towards Tebow the person. Based on observations on various social media platforms, I saw a fan base that was filled with a vitriolic hate towards a man who had done nothing wrong.

Yes, Tim Tebow is not the best quarterback in the league at the moment, but he is an outstanding individual. He has helped create two charitable foundations, done missionary work abroad, provided medical care to people in the third world and has

helped build a hospital in the Philippines.

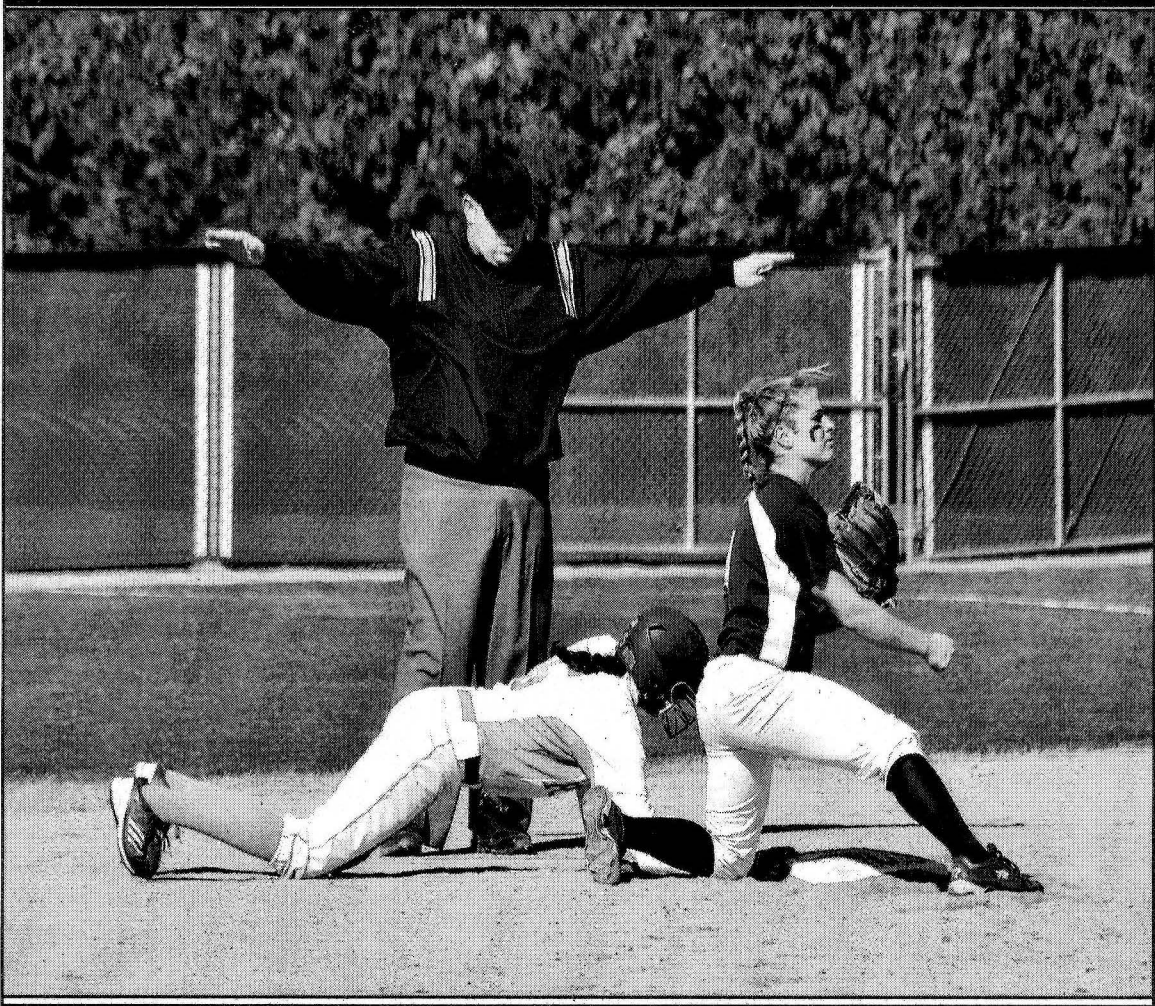
Heaven forbid we have athletes who are upstanding members of the community. One of the major complaints of Tim Tebow is that he is "too nice." Would you rather he shoots himself in the leg with an unlicensed gun like Plaxico Burress? Maybe sports fans would accept him more if he was accused of two sexual assaults in less than a year like Ben Roethlisberger. Donte Stallworth has been accepted back into the league after killing someone while driving drunk. All Tebow has done is reference God a few too many times on television and society readies its pitchforks.

Tebow is the latest example of athletes existing in the same universe as our pets.

My dog Sammy loves me. He will always be there to welcome me when I come home from school, and he'll always be there, with a smile on his face, when we go outside to play. Someday though, hopefully many years from now, Sammy will lose the

Continued on page 3

## Rhody pic of the day



Lauren Trad | Cigar

Junior Kelly Coker of URI Women's Softball team slides to safety in a game against the Yale University Bulldogs at home yesterday.